



Madison Library opens Next Chapter Book Club

There's a new book club at the Madison Public Library just for adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). It's called the Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC), and the fun starts on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Participants will meet at the Madison Library to read, learn, and make friends in a relaxed setting. A group of five to eight people with IDD will gather with two or three trained volunteer facilitators to read aloud and discuss a book for one hour each week. Anyone can participate, whatever their reading or ability level. Members range from those who read well to those who do not read independently.

NCBC is not a traditional reading class or tutoring situation, says program coordinator Teresa Allison. Although members may, and often do, improve literacy skills, the club's focus is on reading to learn, not learning to read.

The social aspect of NCBC is just as important as the reading skills. The goal is for members to improve their interaction with books and stories as well as with each other and their community.

The Madison Library's volunteer staff includes some young adults with IDD. The hard work and devotion of these volunteers inspired the library to start an NCBC. There is a strong need for literacy resources for young adults in the Huntsville area after high school.

Madison's club is the first NCBC in the county, but it won't be the last. Twenty-two area librarians received NCBC training from Jillian Ober of the Nisonger Center at Ohio State University on July 29. The plan is to start book clubs in other parts of Madison County.

The Next Chapter Book Club is presented by the Madison Library and the Madison Friends of the Library. For more information on becoming a member or a volunteer facilitator, contact Teresa Allison at tallison@hmcpl.org or 256-461-0046.

For more information about Huntsville-Madison County Public Library events, contact Ann Marie Martin, communications director, at amartin@hmcpl.org or 256-532-2361.